

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of:	Paul Buchheit	Confirmation No.:	8813
Serial No.:	10/816,427	Art Unit:	2448
Filed:	March 31, 2004	Examiner:	Strange, Aaron N.
For:	<i>Email Conversation Management System</i>	Attorney Docket No.:	60963-5008-US

DECLARATION OF BRIAN D. RAKOWSKI UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.132

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

I, Brian D. Rakowski, declare that:

1. I am currently employed at Google Inc., located at 1600 Amphitheater Parkway Mountain View, California 94043. My current title is Product Management Director.
2. I was Associate Product Manager for the web email project that included the invention described and claimed in the above- identified patent application.
3. This web email application was running internally and used for email communications by the time I joined Google in July of 2002.
4. I understand that the inventors of this invention have submitted declarations stating that this invention was conceived of on or before September 19, 2002 and was reduced to practice on or before June 22, 2003.
5. I understand that the Examiner has requested proof of reduction to practice on or before June 22, 2003.
6. The following comments and explanations relate to the web email application as it actually functioned (and thus as it was "reduced to practice") at least as early as April 21, 2003.

7. Attached hereto, as Exhibit A, is a copy of an email document dated April 21, 2003 addressed to me that includes a screen shot. This email was received from an internal user, a Google employee, who was using the web email application for email communications. This employee was reporting a bug not relevant to this declaration – “the red arrow isn’t pointing to the message I’m reading.” However, the attached screenshot also illustrates that at on April 21, 2003 or before; the web email application was functioning and working for its intended purpose with respect to the details discussed below.
8. The screen shot includes both a list of conversations and a detailed view of one conversation entitled “New Caribou features.” This screen shot is from an operational implementation of a web mail application that implemented all aspects of the currently pending independent claims (15, 32, 37) as well as many of the currently pending dependent claims. For example, the list of conversations in the screen shot that has a set of rows, each row corresponding to one of the listed conversations and including a sender list, a conversation topic, a date/time value, the number of messages in the conversation (shown in parentheses), and a snippet from the conversation which is distinct from the conversation topic. Each row includes bolded text, or not, to indicate whether the corresponding conversation includes at least one unread message, and who the unread message(s) are from. In other words, this document is an example of “a list of identified conversations” wherein “each conversation in the list is represented as an item in the list of conversations” and furthermore “at least one of the conversations in the list comprises two or more electronic messages from distinct senders.”
9. This information is based on my personal knowledge, as refreshed by the email to me shown in Exhibit A. The web email application was search query based, rather than folder based. To be absolutely clear on this point, the web mail application does not use folders. All mail messages for an account are stored together, without any division of messages between folders. However, messages can have labels, such as “inbox,” “unread,” “starred,” “trash” and the like. As such, in order to display all the emails in the “inbox” of a user’s account, a search is performed for the label “inbox” (the actual query is “label:inbox”).

10. Furthermore, the web email application was conversation based. Searches for messages return lists of conversations. Conversations are also known as "threads." Each conversation in the web mail application has a respective conversation identifier. The web email application applied various criteria for determining which messages belong to the same conversation. When performing a search on a search query, such as "label:inbox" or "Tahoe," the web email application located conversations having at least one message that match the search query, and then returned a list of the located conversations. The list of conversations displayed in the screen shot of the Exhibit A is the list of conversations returned by a search for messages with the label "inbox," which was run when the user clicked on the "inbox" tab. Thus, the document in Exhibit A was produced by "receiving a search query from a client," by "identifying a plurality of conversation relevant to the search query, the plurality of conversations including at least two conversations each having two or more messages sharing a common set of characteristics that meet predefined criteria and a respective conversation identifier," and by "returning to the client for display" "a search result to the search query."

11. This screen shot and my sworn statement above regarding the application's search based mechanisms proves that the invention claimed in the above-identified patent application was reduced to practice, i.e., it existed and worked for its intended purpose at least as early as April 21, 2003.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 12/11/09



Brian D. Rakowski

Exhibit A

From: [REDACTED]@google.com>
Date: Mon, Apr 21, 2003 at 2:06 PM
Subject: Re: New Caribou features
To: Brian Rakowski <brakowski@google.com>

I've attached a screen snapshot. Just to the left of "3. Brian Rakowski > ed: 1:54pm".

Also, there's an extraneous box to the right of "Label|Reply|Fwd" on the same line.

You can also see in the snapshot the bug I just filed a few minutes ago where the red arrow isn't pointing to the message I'm currently reading. I'm reading "New Caribou features" but it's pointing to "RE: \$500 credit limit...".

BTW, I've been using Caribou full-time for about two weeks now, and I'm digging it!

On Mon Apr 21 13:54:39 PDT 2003, Brian Rakowski <brakowski@google.com> wrote:
> I'm not sure what you mean... otri?
>
> On Mon Apr 21 13:47:59 PDT 2003, [REDACTED]@google.com> wrote:
> > What's the "otri" thing next to the sender?

Attachments:

[caribou.gif](#)

(15 KB)

Inbox (9) Label Sent Drafts (2) Compose Addresses Encrypt Archive | Spam (118) | Trash (1)

IN Eric...Makas, Stephen (4) [Me] Google in the OED... - There's no mention of us on oed.com.google v. Grecian, infr. Of the bel... 1:56pm

IN Brian, me (3) * New Caribou features - I'm not sure what you mean... or? 1:54pm

root Googledata push - Gwyrush: Too many failed sync and inactivive servers at DC. Push was reverted. 1:48pm

IN Marc, me, Marc, Kim (7) VAT RE: \$500 credit limit inclusive of VAT or not? - Thanks for clarifying Marc. This sounds great. A few comments: 1) Question 1... 12:15pm

IN Dafydd Mark-Swan, Paul

New Caribou features [Inbox]

IN 1 new, 2 read

IN tri. 1 Brian Rokowski Hi loyal Caribou users! Here's a list of the things we've been working on as... 1:56pm

IN tri. 2 Who's the "or" thing next to the sender? 1:54pm

IN tri. 3 Brian Rokowski > ed: 1:54pm (3 minutes ago) 1:48pm

IN tri. 4 I'm not sure what you mean... or? 12:15pm

[Open in new window](#)

Label Reply Forward

§